

Serial. No. 09/911,051

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-17, 19, 21-29 and 31-36 are presently pending, claims 18, 20 and 30 having previously been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 34 has been amended herein to incorporate the contents of claim 1 into the same. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 29, 31-33 and 35 have been amended above to depend, directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 13 or allowable claim 34.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 14, 21-22, 27-28, 31-32 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by EP 0 879 595 A2 to Schneider (USA) Inc.

Claims 15, 17, 19, 23-25, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schneider (USA) Inc.

Claims 2-4, 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schneider (USA) Inc. in view of Velraeds et al. and Millsap et al.

Claims 5-6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schneider (USA) Inc. in view of Vacheethasane.

Claims 9, 12 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Schneider (USA) Inc. in view of BD WO 00/32168.

These rejections and their supporting remarks are respectfully traversed.

Moreover, claims 1-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29, 31-33, 35 and 36 presently depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 13 or from allowable claim 34.

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of claims 1-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29, 31-33, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 13 was allowed in the Office Action.

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Claim 34 was objected to in the Office Action as being dependent upon rejected claim 1, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. This has been done.

All remaining claims (claims 1-12, 14-17, 19, 21-29, 31-33, 35 and 36) presently depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 13 or from allowable claim 34 and are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

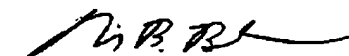
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 1-17, 19, 21-29 and 31-36 are presently in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's attorney at (703) 433-0510 in order to resolve any outstanding issues in this case.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge the additional claims fee as well as any other fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

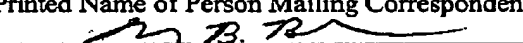


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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein are being sent to the United States Patent and Trademark office via Facsimile to: 703-872-9303 on 3/22/04.

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